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ABSTRACT

Full-time undergraduate student responses to the University of Maryland 1970 University Student Census and to anonymous questionnaires are summarized. Ninety-four percent (22,000) of the students took the University Student Census, an activities and attitude survey given annually to all full-time undergraduates. Approximately 5,000 new freshmen took an anonymous questionnaire on social and political attitudes during summer orientation, and a similar questionnaire was administered to a sample of approximately 5,700 full-time undergraduates during fall registration. Data are presented on the place of residence and employment status of students, student reasons for attending the university, views about academic policies and procedures and non-academic services, attitudes toward black students, and political and social views. Responses were obtained about campus demonstrations, U.S. policy in Southeast Asia, and university issues. (SW)

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COUNSELING CENTER

Office of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

College Park, Maryland

A PROFILE OF UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND STUDENTS
1970-1971

Anne M. Collins and William E. Sedlacek

Research Report # 1-71

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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Summary

Full time undergraduate responses to the University Student Census (USC) for 1970 (N=22,000) and an Anonymous Questionnaire (N=5,691) are summarized in the report. Highlights of each section are:

General: Thirty-two percent of Maryland undergraduates live in residence halls, 29% live with parents, 24% live in apartments or off-campus rooms and 5% in fraternity or sorority houses. Forty-eight percent of the students had part-time jobs and another 20% were seeking them. More seniors and males worked than lower classmen and women.

Views of the University: Students attended Maryland because of its geographical location (27%), its low cost (26%), and its academic program (20%). Students favored student and faculty referenda on issues affecting University policy (70%) and were against Saturday classes (56%).

Academic Life: Freshmen generally felt the faculty and administration cared about them more than did upperclassmen. Students favored many changes in academic policies and procedures including an increased student role in hiring and retention of faculty (57%), Student Advisory Boards in all departments (81%), dropping courses throughout the semester without penalty (56%), and regular campus colloquies to improve communication (55%). Females were generally more in favor of change than males.

Non-academic Services: Students strongly favored an after hour crisis or help center (85%), a drug counseling service (84%) and a legal counseling service (76%). The Diamondback was widely read, with 40% saying they read it five times a week.

Attitudes Toward Black Students: While 42% said most black students are friendly to whites, only 31%favored the active recruiting of black students to the University and 22% feel the state should have no special program of providing education for both blacks and whites. Students did not know why few blacks attended the University (37%) or felt blacks preferred black colleges (19%). Only twenty-one percent felt the University's racist image or practices discouraged blacks.

Political and Social Views: Most students felt Maryland students were concerned about social issues (54%). They also felt that the primary causes of the spring, 1970 disturbances were foreign policy in S.E. Asia (72%) and student frustration with administrative communication (70%). Additionally, 58% felt the presence of the National Guard intensified the violence and 61% felt campus police should not routinely wear firearms. Exactly one-half of the undergraduates said they had participated in some campus demonstrations last year.

The University of Maryland, College Park, enrolled 23,470 full time undergraduates in the fall of 1970. Included in that number were 5,241 new freshmen. Eighty-nine percent of the new freshmen ranked in the top half of their high school classes, and 54% were in the top quarter.

Analysis of the undergraduate enrollment by college shows that Arts and Sciences is the most popular, with 41% of all undergraduates. The College of Education follows with 20% and Business and Public Administration claims 16%. The remaining ten colleges enroll fewer than 10% of the undergraduates in each one. Engineering has 8%, followed by Home Economics with 4%. The Colleges of Agriculture, Nursing and Physical Education each enroll 2% of all undergraduates, and the College of Architecture and University College enroll 1% each. The remainder of the undergraduates are in Physical Therapy, Pharmacy and Dental Technology. An additional 2% of the undergraduate population is enrolled in the Office of Intermediate Registration.

Many students leave the University both during and at the end of each semester. For example, only 47% of those students who entered as new freshmen in the fall of 1965 enrolled for an eighth semester. The remaining 53% may still be at the University, but they may have interrupted their academic program at some time. An analysis of past semesters indicates that 10% of the undergraduates are dismissed during a typical academic year. In addition to those who withdraw at the end of a semester, a small percentage typically leave the University during a semester. For instance, 350 students withdrew from the University during the Spring semester of 1970.

Ninety-four percent (22,000) of the full time undergraduates took the University Student Census (USC), a 46 item questionnaire administered by the Counseling Center during either fall registration or freshmen summer orienta-

tion. A breakdown of those who took the 1970 USC shows that 27% were freshmen, 27% were sophomores, 28% were juniors and 19% were seniors. Forty-two percent of the USC respondents were females and 58% were males.

Almost 5,000 new freshmen took an anonymous questionnaire on social and political attitudes during summer orientation. A similar questionnaire was administered to a sample of full time undergraduates during fall registration. The remainder of this report will consist of a summary of the results of the 1970 USC and the two anonymous questionnaires.

General Description of Maryland Students

Thirty-two percent of Maryland's full-time undergraduates live in University residence halls and 29% live with parents. Another 24% live in apartments or off-campus rooms, 5% live in fraternity or sorority houses and 4% own or rent houses. Residence differs according to both sex and class, with a larger percentage of females (35%) living in dormitories than males (23%), and with considerably more freshmen living with either parents or in dormitories than upperclassmen. For example, only 7% of the freshmen live in apartments, compared to 33% of the seniors.

Whether or not a student holds a part time job is also related to his class and sex. Forty-eight percent of the undergraduates reported, when they took the USC, that they had jobs and an additional 20% said they were looking for such employment. Only 27% of the males said they did not have and did not plan to seek a part time job, compared to 31% of the females. Forty-four percent of the freshmen said they did not intend to hold part-time jobs, but only 28% of the seniors reported that they did not have or want jobs. The USC

responses also indicated that seniors with jobs worked more hours and made more money from their jobs than did freshmen who worked. The same finding seems to hold for males and females, with 15% of the male and only 4% of the female students reporting a weekly income of $50.00 or more.

Thirty-six percent of the undergraduates reported that their fathers hold college degrees, 20% said their fathers had done some college work, 23% checked "high school graduate" and 15% said "less than a high school diploma." Five percent responded "other." * Thirty-two percent of the females reported that their father holds a college degree as did 39% of the males. Forty-two percent of the freshmen fathers hold college degrees, compared with 34% of the seniors.

Forty-four percent of the undergraduates said they were sure of their vocational goals, while 29% said they were somewhat uncertain and 21% said they were quite uncertain or had no goal at present.

When asked how many dates they have a month, 8% of the undergraduates said "none," 33% said 1-4, 27% said 5 to 10, 14% said more than 10, and 9% said they were married. Students reported that the hardest part of adjusting to college was studying efficiently (18%), followed by budgeting time (17%), selecting a major and/or a career (16%), and earning satisfactory grades (12%). Other difficulties were "being expected to be a critical and independent thinker," (9%), meeting financial expenses (8%), getting to know other students (7%) and deciding whether to get involved in campus dissent (3%).

* In the remainder of this report, "other" responses will be eliminated unless they exceed 10%. Additionally, totals may not always equal 100% due to rounding.

Views of the University

A majority of the sophomores, juniors and seniors reported that they decided to attend the University of Maryland because of its geographical location (27%) and its relatively low cost (26%). Twenty percent cited the University's academic program as the main reason for their choice, 5% said they were influenced by friends and relatives who have attended or do attend the University, and 2% said they weren't accepted elsewhere. Only 1% said a high school counselor or teacher had influenced them and 17% responded "other". The freshmen responses differed from those of the other classes in that 30% ranked "offered the kind of academic program I wanted" as their main reason for attending the University. Twenty-one percent cited the University's relatively low cost, 18% checked geographical location and 7% noted the influence of friends and relatives who have attended or do attend the University. Four percent of the freshmen said they didn't get accepted elsewhere, 2% said high school counselors or teachers suggested the University, and 15% checked "other".

Seventy-eight percent of the undergraduates agreed with the statement "this campus needs some good leadership to encourage students, faculty and administrators to work jointly at improving the University." Four percent disagreed with the statement and 15% were neutral. On the question of whether the University of Maryland is a better University than it was a year ago, 40% feel it is better, 10% do not think it's better, and 41% were neutral.

A majority (70%) of all undergraduates agreed that "more use should be made of student and faculty referendums as providing bases for important administrative decision-making within the University." Six percent disagreed with this proposal and 21% were neutral. Male and female students differed

slightly on this item. Sixty-seven percent of the males agreed and 7% disagreed, while 73% of the females agreed and only 4% disagreed. Only 14% of the students favored having more classes on Saturdays and 24% favored more classes in the afternoon or evening hours. Fifty-six percent were against more Saturday classes, and 24% were neutral. Thirty-six percent were neutral on having more afternoon and evening classes and 36% were against the idea.

Opinions on Academic Life

Forty-three percent of the undergraduates believed that "freshmen and sophomore courses are given enough attention by a number of academic departments." Eleven percent disagreed with that assertion, and 39% were neutral. Thirty-nine percent were neutral to the statement " my courses are stimulating and exciting," while 30% disagreed with the statement and 23% agreed.

Freshmen differed from the other classes on their expectation of how much faculty advisors, teaching faculty and administrators at the University "act like they really care about students." The freshmen responses to these three items are compared with those of upperclassmen in the following table:

" Act like they really care about students"

	Faculty Advisors Care		Teaching Faculty Care		Administrators Care	
	Fresh.	Upper.	Fresh.	Upper.	Fresh.	Upper.
Strongly Agree	9%	6%	4%	7%	4%	3%
Agree	40%	28%	23%	31%	25%	14%
Neutral	33%	31%	49%	32%	46%	35%
Disagree	6%	20%	6%	17%	9%	25%
Strongly Disagree	2%	10%	2%	7%	3%	18%
Other	9%	5%	14%	5%	12%	4%
Total	99%	100%	98%	99%	99%	99%

Twenty-six percent of the students said they became well acquainted with one or two University instructors or teachers last year, 14% said they became acquainted with 3 or 4 and 5% said they got to know 5 or more teachers last year. Thirty-five percent said "was not at the University last year." Twenty percent of the students said they study 9 hours or less a week, 42% said they study from 10 to 20 hours a week, and 23% said they study from 20-30 hours per week. Six percent of the undergraduates said they study more than 30 hours a week. The freshmen reported fewer hours of study per week than upperclassmen with twenty-nine percent citing 9 or less hours of study a week, and none reporting more than 30 hours a week

According to the USC results, students from all classes would like to see many changes in academic policies and procedures. Fifty-seven percent of the undergraduates felt that students should have a role in the hiring, retention and promotion of faculty in their academic departments. Twenty-two percent disagreed with students having such a role and 19% were neutral. Male and female students differed on this question, with 64% of the females in favor of student participation and 17% against. Only 55% of the males favored student participation in faculty hiring and 24% opposed it.

Students approved the idea of each academic department establishing a Student Advisory Board 81% to 5%, with 12% of the students checking "neutral." Again, females backed the proposal more strenuously than did males. Seventy-five percent of the males agreed with the proposal and 7% disagreed, compared to 83% agreement and 4% disagreement among the females. The freshmen favored the idea of Student Advisory Boards more vehemently than any other group. Eighty-nine percent of the new freshmen agreed with the idea and only 1% disagreed.

Students agreed (56% to 27%) that academic regulations should allow dropping courses throuout a semester without penalty. Sixteen percent were neutral on

this question. Only 24% of the students agreed that "Graduate teaching, advisement and research occupy equal priority with undergraduate teaching involvement in most departments." Twenty-one percent disagreed, and 46% were neutral.

Fifty-five percent of the students thought "the idea of the campus colloquy conducted last spring should be repeated regularly as a means of improving campus communication and problem solving." Eleven percent did not think the colloquy should be repeated, and 28% were neutral. Females favored the colloquy more than males, with 62% of the female students agreeing compared to 56% of the males. Many freshmen (36%) were neutral on this item, with 41% agreeing with the colloquy idea and 14% against it. When the undergraduate responses were tabulated without the freshmen data, 59% favored the colloquy, and only 9% opposed it. When asked about their participation in last year's colloquy, 37% of the students said they were not on campus, 5% said they didn't know the colloquy was being held, 25% said they participated in it, and 24% said they knew of it but didn't participate in it.

Perception of Need for Non-Academic Services

The USC results showed that students strongly support the initiation of new services on campus. Seventy-four percent of the undergraduates agreed the University Health Service should provide students with such services as information and prescriptions regarding contraception and abortion. Nine percent disagreed and 15% were neutral.

Eighty-five percent of the undergraduates supported the statement "the University should have an after business hours telephone service center for crises and general help to students." Eleven percent were neutral to the idea of a "Help" center and 3% were opposed. Seventy-six percent of the undergraduates were in favor of the University supplying a legal counseling service

for students and 84% supported the proposal that the University provide a drug counseling service. Seven percent of the students opposed the legal counseling proposal and 3% opposed drug counseling.

Both freshmen and females supported the initiation of legal and drug counseling and of a Help Center more strongly than did males and non-freshmen. The percentages of each group favoring the introduction of these services were:

	All Undergrads.	Males	Females	Freshmen
Help Center	85%	80%	87%	92%
Legal Counseling	76%	71%	77%	81%
Drug Counseling	84%	80%	86%	89%

When asked what type of counseling and/or educational services they are most interested in, 34% said "Counseling regarding vocational and educational plans," 10% said "Counseling regarding emotional or social concerns," and 31% checked various reading and study skills services. Seventeen percent said they were not interested in counseling services at that time. Females indicated more interest in counseling than did males, but males were more concerned with reading and study skills services than were females.

Sixty-nine percent of the students agreed that the initiation of coed housing on campus was an educationally sound idea. Seven percent did not think it was a good idea, and 21% were neutral.

According to the USC data*, students read the Diamondback more often than they listen to WMUC, the campus radio station. Forty percent of the undergraduates reported that they read the Diamondback five times a week, 24% said they

* On the items referring to WMUC and the Diamondback, the responses of the 4,856 freshmen who took the USC during the summer orientation were not included since they were, by definition, not on campus last year. Percentages reported on these items reflect only the responses of the 17,144 students polled during fall registration.

read it once or twice a week, and only 4% said they "hardly ever" read it. Seventeen percent said they were not on campus last year. Ten percent of the students said they listen to WMUC five times a week, while 7% said they listen 3 or 4 times a week, 7% said once or twice weekly, and 21% said they "hardly ever" listen to WMUC. Nineteen percent said they were not here last year and an additional 26% said they were "here, but did not live on campus." Females reported more use of WMUC than did the males, with 14% of the females listening five times a week, compared to 7% of the males. This finding may be related to the previously mentioned fact that females are more likely to live on campus than are males.

Attitudes Towards Black Students

Students gave mixed responses to USC items related to black students. Forty-two percent felt that most black students are friendly to whites, but 36% were neutral to this statement, and 16% disagreed. A higher percentage (47%) of freshmen than upperclassmen felt that black students are friendly to whites, and fewer freshmen (9%) disagreed with the statement.

Only 31% of the students agreed that "the University should actively recruit black students." Thirty-four percent of all students disagreed with recruitment of blacks and 31% were neutral. When asked the main reason there are few black students at the University of Maryland at College Park, students replied:

Blacks prefer to go to black colleges	19%
The University discourages them from coming because of its tough academic reputation	7%
The University's racist practices discourage them from coming	6%
The University's racist image discourages them	15%
Don't know	37%
Other	17%
Total	101%

The only class or sex differences on this item were that 52% of the freshmen said "Don't know," and therefore had fewer responses among the other five alternatives.

Maryland students showed no consensus on the best way for the State of Maryland to provide higher education for blacks and whites. The most popular of the five alternatives was "other" (29%). Twenty-four percent said "improve the quality of the predominantly black colleges in the state to bring them up to the level of the University," and 22% favored letting things happen naturally, with no further program. Nineteen percent of the undergraduates thought the state should work actively to draw whites to predominantly black colleges and vice versa, and 5% said the state should require a certain percentage of white and black students at each college.

Political and Social Views

A majority of students (54%) believe that University of Maryland students are concerned about social issues on and off campus. Only 18% of the undergraduates disagreed, and 24% were neutral. Opinions differed across classes on this item:

Feel students are concerned about social issues:

	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
Agree	72%	52%	48%	46%
Neutral	16%	25%	27%	27%
Disagree	7%	19%	21%	23%
Other	4%	4%	4%	3%
Total	99%	100%	100%	99%

Only 16% of the upperclassmen (non-freshmen) agreed that University students have ample opportunity to participate in University policy-making, and only 17% believe that channels for expressing student complaints are readily available. Forty-nine percent think students do not have enough opportunity to participate in policy-making, and 46% believe they have available channels for complaints. Twenty-nine percent were neutral on the policy-making item and 30% were neutral on channels for complaints.

Freshmen were more optimistic than upperclassmen on both items, with 26% believing they would have opportunities to participate in policy-making and 26% believing that channels for student complaints are available. Females were more discouraged with the channels for complaints than males, with 49% of the females disputing the assertion that channels are readily available compared to 44% of the males.

Many undergraduates (41%) felt that the University should suspend students who disrupt its normal operations, but 30% disagreed with this policy and 24% were neutral. Males took the pro-suspension position more often than females, with 44% of the male students favoring suspension, compared to 36% of the females. Fifty percent of the undergraduates reported that the disruptions of spring, 1970 made them more involved in issues on campus, 20% did not feel they became more involved and 24% were neutral.

Responses to Anonymous Questionnaire on Political Issues

An anonymous sample of the social and political opinions of undergraduates was taken during September, 1970 registration. Of the 5,691 students sampled, 6% were freshmen, 32% were sophomores, 38% were juniors and 22% seniors. A similar questionnaire was administered to 4,858 new freshmen during summer orientation.

The fall sample classified themselves as reactionaries (2%), conservatives (14%), moderates (36%), liberals (38%), radicals (5%) or other (6%). Fifty-eight percent of the sample felt that the presence of the National Guard during last spring's disruptions intensified the violence, while 25% disagreed and 14% were neutral. Twenty-eight percent felt the Guard made the campus safer after the disruptions, while 46% disagreed and 22% were neutral.

Exactly one-half of the students said they had participated in some campus demonstration last year, while the other half had not. When asked their opinion of the causes of last spring's disturbances, the students said:

Causes of Spring, 1970 Disturbances

Cause	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Other	Total
Foreign policy in S.E. Asia	72%	15%	10%	3%	100%
Student frustration with administrative communication	70%	17%	9%	3%	99%
Radicals	58%	23%	15%	4%	100%
Domestic & economic crisis	48%	26%	23%	4%	101%
Outside agitators	46%	26%	23%	5%	100%
Spring fever	31%	25%	38%	5%	99%
Racial tension	26%	30%	41%	4%	101%

The 4,859 freshmen who responded to an anonymous questionnaire in the summer did not differ substantially from the fall sample on items related to the National Guard. Fifty-nine percent of the freshmen group said the presence of the Guard intensified the violence during last spring's disturbances and only 24% said the Guard's presence after the disturbances made the campus safer.

The freshmen group differed somewhat from the fall sample on whether or not campus police should routinely wear firearms on campus. Sixty-one percent of the fall sample felt the campus police should not wear guns, while 51% of

the summer group took that position. Twenty-nine percent of the summer group felt that campus police should wear guns as did 24% of the fall sample.

On questions involving U.S. policy in Southeast Asia, 13% of the fall sample and 15% of the summer orientation group felt we must achieve military victory. Sixty-four percent of the fall sample disagreed with the notion of military victory, as did 68% of the freshmen group. When asked about withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam, 45% of the fall sample favored immediate withdrawal, 19% were neutral and 32% opposed immediate pullout. Fifty percent of the fall sample agreed that U.S. troops should be withdrawn "at a rate not endangering the government of South Vietnam," while 28% disagreed with this position and 18% were neutral.

The freshmen who responded to the summer questionnaire were asked to agree or disagree with the statement: "We must withdraw and quickly - it is presumptuous of us to invade another country because we alone decided to do so. Withdrawal and admission of a mistake would reflect credit upon us." Thirty-five percent of the freshmen agreed with the statement, 39% disagreed and 18% were neutral.

The freshmen group were also asked several questions about their perceptions of student dissenters on the Maryland campus. Only 9% thought student dissenters were more intelligent than most students, but 19% thought dissenters were less well adjusted than other students, and 41% thought that student dissenters were more idealistic than most students. Forty-five percent disagreed with the assertion that student dissenters are more intelligent, 30% did not feel they are less well adjusted and 20% did not believe they are more idealistic. (The fall questionnaire did not include these items, but did have a number of items on both national and university policy that were not on the summer questionnaire).

Only 15% of the fall sample agreed with the statement "we should support the President of our country in all circumstances." Sixty-nine percent of the sample disagreed with the statement and 13% were neutral. On other items, 72% of the sample felt that military and defense expenses prevent us from meeting domestic needs and 52% disagreed that national security increases with the deployment of new missiles. Eighteen percent felt that new missiles do increase national security and 13% do not feel defense expenditures prevent us from meeting domestic needs. Fifty-two percent of the sample did not think Selective Service is a good way to maintain a standing army to protect the country, while 25% did think Selective Service is a good way to protect the country.

On University issues, 73% felt that the source of funds for all University research should be made known to the University community, while 9% disagreed. Sixty-five percent felt that the University community should know the nature of all University research projects, but 15% disagreed with this position. Fifty-eight percent of the sample felt that the University has neither the right nor the responsibility to accumulate non-academic records on students, but 20% of the sample felt the University does have such a right.